



April 18, 2019

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WC Docket No. 17-287, *Bridging the Digital Divide for Low-Income Consumers*; WC Docket No. 11-42, *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization*; WC Docket No. 09-197, *Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On April 16, 2019, Joshua Stager and Eric Null of New America's Open Technology Institute ("OTI") met with Commissioner Carr's Chief of Staff Jamie Susskind.

We discussed our concerns about any potential cap on the Universal Service Fund, particularly with respect to expenditures for the Lifeline program. We reiterated OTI's longstanding support for Lifeline and our concern that a budget cap could cause eligible Americans to lose access to vital communications services and discourage wireless providers from participating in the program. We also discussed the need to fully implement the National Verifier before contemplating further systemic changes to the program.

We submit this notice of ex parte presentation pursuant to Section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's rules.

Respectfully,

Joshua Stager, Senior Policy Counsel
Eric Null, Senior Policy Counsel

New America's Open Technology Institute
740 15th Street NW, Suite 900
Washington, DC 20005